~~21 Cornhill, Boston~~,
Leicester April ~~19~~. 22. 1853

My dear Mr. Foster,

Yrs. of ~~yesterday~~ the 18 is at hand. You answer mine under a misapprehension. A little more reflection, I think and certainly hope, will lead you to a different conclusion. I was ~~very~~ sorry that I ~~had not thought to~~ did not speak to you about Gordelli's book, when you were ~~too~~ in S. Office last week; but you came in unexpectedly, and the subject did not occur to me till you had gone; ~~then I hoped to see you, on your way back;~~ ~~but~~ and you did not call again I believe, before your return to W. Brookf. — You will not take it unkindly, I hope, if I say you are _sometimes_ a little too hasty; _I_, who am _often_ so, may _speak_ of this fault, but am bound to judge it ~~very~~ leniently in others; I do think it a _fault_. — Now for you to ~~go to~~ throw~~ing~~ up your ~~anti-slavery~~ agency without on the~~se~~ ground, you name would surely not be doing a wise thing, — at least I firmly believe so and I think I can show it to you. — Let me premise that I hope you do not think so meanly of us, — indeed I am quite sure you cannot — as to suppose we want you to resign, & take this ~~or any other indirect~~ way to lead you to it. We should regard it a loss to have you leave your work in connexion with ~~the the A.S.~~ our cause, & with our Society. ~~We~~ The testimony we have from abroad is strongly in your favour; ~~and is approbatory of your services~~; and we know, ~~too~~, of ourselves, ~~to know~~ that you are a successful agent. So much for that. If you are tired (not of the cause, but) of such steady hard work, - work less; ~~I never sh^d. have appointed you such frequent meetings, but for your own express wish to be steadily working, while away from home.~~ - If you can't be so much from home, that is another point, - which you, not we, can decide. - But supposing (as I ~~trust~~ doubt not is the case) that you & we are mutually satisfied, & that nothing is "between us" but this book of Goodell's, let us come at once to that.

You virtually ~~join issue with Garrison, Phillips, & others~~ dispute the opinion of ~~[illegible]~~ those, who went through the long contest with New Organization, on the character of Goodell's book. You think there is nothing in it, to prevent *our* (I use the word *our* for brevity) selling & circulating it freely; and that, if it has some prejudices against the Old Organ^n, why— it is just what the Old Org^n. have ag'st the New, — & so the account is balanced! Now, considering that you did not go through that contest, & cannot be supposed to have so intimate any acquaintance with it as those who did, — ~~Now~~, ought you to be, (on the instant) so sure on this point? I think an hour's ~~fair~~ candid talk with either Garrison, or Phillips, would lead you to an entirely diff^t conclusion. — I have what I deem the best reason for charging Goodell's "Slavery & Anti-Slavery" with *falsehood* against the Am^n. A.S. Soc^y, its members & its operations. *If this is so*, is it consistent with either our duty to our principles, or with a decent self-respect, *~~for us~~ for us to be instrumental in giving currency to those falsehoods?* I leave this willingly to your decision. And that there is this falsehood in the book, I am confident those can prove to you, who were parties in the transactions there commented on. — ~~The next time we have a Board Meeting, (and I will take an early oppo. for one) I will~~

~~lay this matter before them~~.

As to the forgetting, & overlooking, & coming together, of which you speak, – no one knows, better than yourself, that to this en there must be mutual confidence, and ~~there must not be a~~ no compromise of what we believe right & duty. – On honourable ground we are not indisposed to union with anybody; we have gotten an infidel and fanatical name, because we would not set up a theolog^l. or a polit^l. creed for ourselves & our associates. – And we are a handful, because we would not compromise the truth, for the sake of union & numbers. – W. Goodell has falsified ~~most~~ important ~~& vita~~ matters of Anti Slavery history. Let him see to that. Let it not be ours to aid ~~him~~ in such a work, especially where he libels our cause & ourselves. – We may use his book for the good that is in it; & when we speak of it, should do justice to the good, & not fail to caution all against its evil. – The book ought to have been reviewed in the Liberator long since; it ha been, I think, in the "Standard." – We have enough good books, ~~I think, without~~ which prese just view of the cause, for our agents to circulate; but if we had not, that would be no justification for ~~without~~ going into the sale of those which ~~virtually~~ sland us, & give the lie to what our truest men & women, & our publications, have ~~steadfastly affirmed~~ maintained for years. –

I ~~shall~~ have made you no appointments after Upton till Lowell (M This was according to our understanding, – that you might rest. I may be a next Monday (25). Come in, if you can, & see me on ~~Wednesday (27)~~ Thursday 28. Yrs. truly

S. May, Jr.